



File Code: 1950;2400

Date: February 12, 2020

Dear Reader,

The Daniel Boone National Forest, Redbird Ranger District, is proposing to implement the South Red Bird Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project, with some modifications to the initial proposed action. This project will facilitate habitat enhancement and forest restoration through a variety of vegetation management techniques on about 12,000 acres, conduct controlled prescribed fires on approximately 7,500 acres, and reroute nearly 20 miles of the Redbird Crest Trail. The project boundary encompasses approximately 55,750 acres, of which nearly 32,275 acres are National Forest System (NFS) lands in the southern portion of the Redbird Ranger District. The project area spans portions of Clay County, Kentucky, from the Sandhill region south to Blue Hole Creek and Highway 1524, in Leslie County from the Left Fork of Elisha Creek south to Upper Jacks Creek and Oakley Cave Branch.

We received 70 comments to the project's draft environmental assessment (EA) during the 30-day Notice and Comment period between November 6, 2019 and December 6, 2019. In response to comments, I have decided to remove one stand of 22.6 acres from the proposed action. Also in response to comments, the environmental assessment (EA) and the biological assessment and evaluation (BAE) have been revised to clarify some statements, and the Soil and Water Report (Cherry and Cotton 2020) have been appended to provide more detail about effects analysis. A Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been drafted.

The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to pre-decisional objection process at 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. The revised EA, draft Decision Notice and FONSI, and supporting documentation are available on-line at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=52340>. These documents are also available for review at the Redbird Ranger Station. Additional information regarding this project or activity can be obtained from: Robert Claybrook, Redbird District Ranger, 91 Peabody Road, Big Creek Kentucky, 40914, Phone: (606) 598-2192, email: robert.claybrook@usda.gov.

How to Object and the Timeframe for Objection

The opportunity to object ends 45 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the *Manchester Enterprise*, Manchester, Kentucky. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection.

Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after designated comment opportunities §218.8(c).

It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer. At a minimum, the objection must include the following:

- State that the document is a Notice of Objection filed pursuant to Title 36 CFR Part 218;
- List the name and address of the objector;
- Provide a signature or other verification of authorship (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection);
- Identify the lead objector, when multiple names are listed on an objection;
- State that you are objecting to the South Red Bird Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project on the Redbird Ranger District of the Daniel Boone National Forest and the objection is directed at Dan Olsen, Forest Supervisor;
- A statement of the issues and/or the parts of project to which the objection applies;
- A concise statement explaining the objection and suggesting how the proposed plan decision may be improved;
- State how the draft decision fails to consider comments previously provided, either before or during the comment period specified in Title 36 CFR §315.6, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment, and, if applicable, how the objector believes the decision violates law, regulation or policy; and
- A statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments and the content of the objection.

Written objections must be filed with: Dan Olsen, Forest Supervisor, 1700 Bypass Rd., Winchester, KY 40391; by facsimile to 859-744-1568, Office phone: 859-745-3100.

Hand-delivered objections can be submitted from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Project/1920/Phase/3132> or SM.FS.r8dbsoobj@usda.gov. Please state "Objection-South Red Bird Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project" in the subject line when providing electronic objections, or on the envelope when replying by mail. Objections received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who object, will be considered part of the public record on these proposed actions and will be available for public inspection.

Thank you for your continued interest in projects on the Daniel Boone National Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Claybrook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more prominent than the last name "Claybrook".

ROBERT CLAYBROOK
District Ranger

Enclosure: Map of proposed actions